

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004 ("Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-19 for at least the following reasons.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2 and 12 are cancelled by this Response. Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-21 are currently pending in the present application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 20 and 21 are allowed and that claims 3 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claims 3 and 12 into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Each independent claim 1, 11, 20 and 21 now contain subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior rejections of the claims are moot. Applicant respectfully requests an indication that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

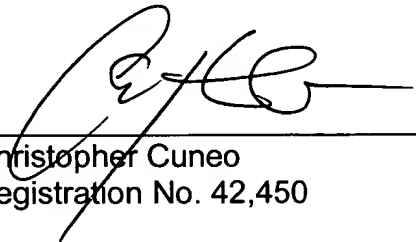
No fee is believed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if it is determined otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

Dated: December 21, 2004
Hunton & Williams LLP
Intellectual Property Department
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500 (telephone)
(202) 778-2201 (facsimile)

By:



Christopher Cuneo
Registration No. 42,450